

Opportunities and Challenges NTD Control in Ghana

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NTDCP

- Focuses on integrated control of 5 of the 13 diseases WHO has classified as NTDs that employ preventive chemotherapy as its main strategy for control
- Greater impact and cost-effectiveness of multiple interventions
- Share expertise and greater reach into communities
- Strengthens the health system

Cases of LF

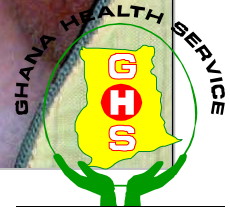


Onchocerciasis



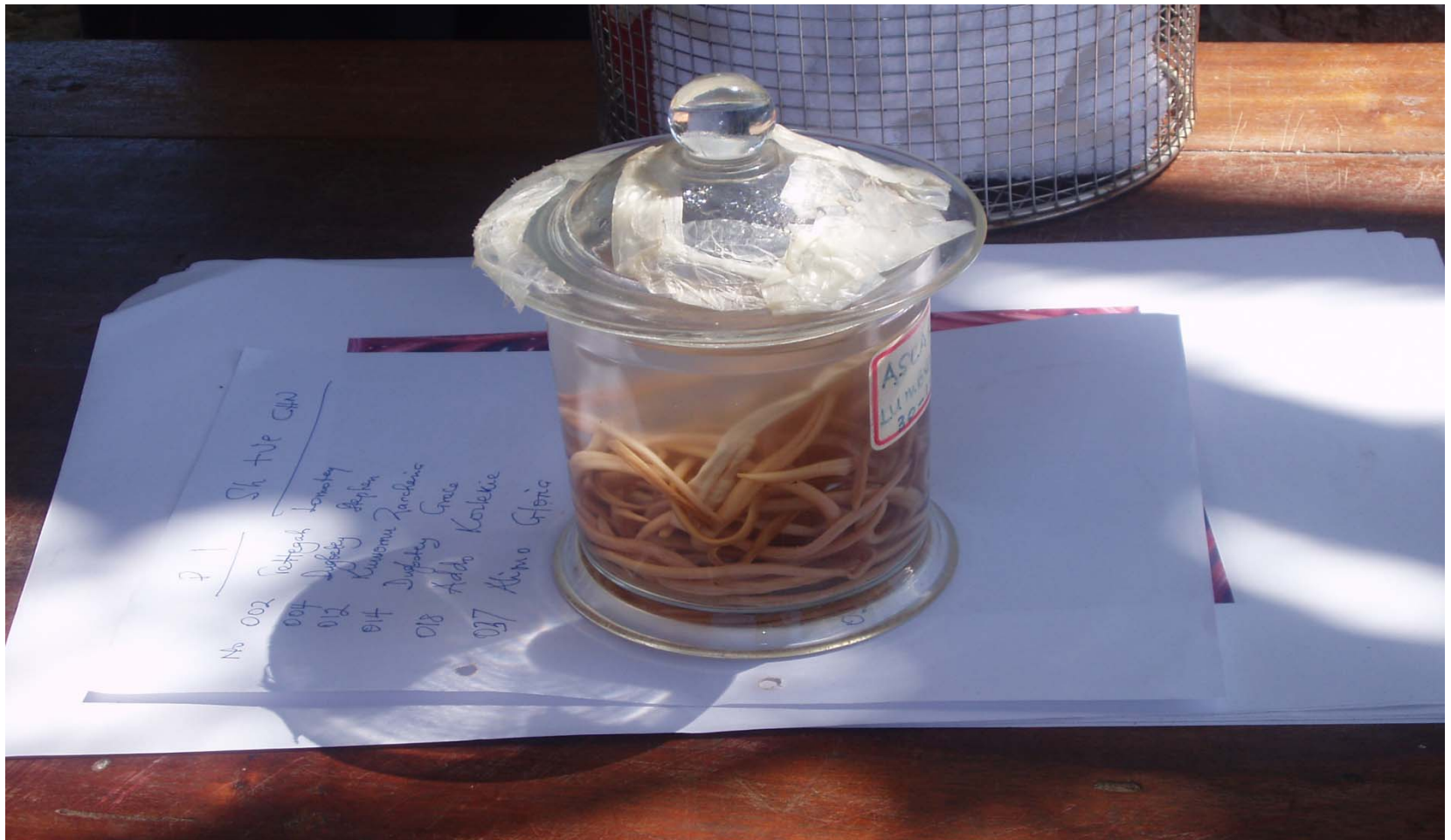


APOC/Impact/Team3/Caemroom





Ascaris lumbricoides



Lymphatic Filariasis

- Endemic in 8 of the 10 regions in Ghana (Volta and Ashanti regions are non-endemic)
- 61 endemic districts
- At risk population of about 9.9M
- Program up-scaled gradually from 5 districts to 61 districts this year
- About 7.2 million people were targeted for treatment this year
- Program also target people with hydrocoeleles for surgery and morbidity management for lymphoedema patients

Onchocerciasis

- Oncho is endemic in 9 out of the 10 regions in Ghana (GAR is non-endemic)
- 3209 Communities are endemic with a population of 2,970,000 at risk
- Community Directed Treatment with Ivermectin (CDTI) targets all hyper- and meso-endemic communities in the country
- Oncho will continue monitoring for recrudescence in selected sites

SSTH

Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthes

- STH is known to be endemic in all parts of the country
- SCH is endemic along the Volta Lake
- SSTH Program's target is to provide treatment to 75% of all school-aged children
- Taskforce on school de-worming has completed a pilot and a nationwide de-worming exercise in 2006 and 2007
- Prevalence data for disease mapping has been collected and preliminary analysis undertaken
- Modeling is presently ongoing
- 119 districts identified to be endemic countrywide
- 45 belong 5 USAID supported districts
- About 9M tablets of PZQ procured for Rx

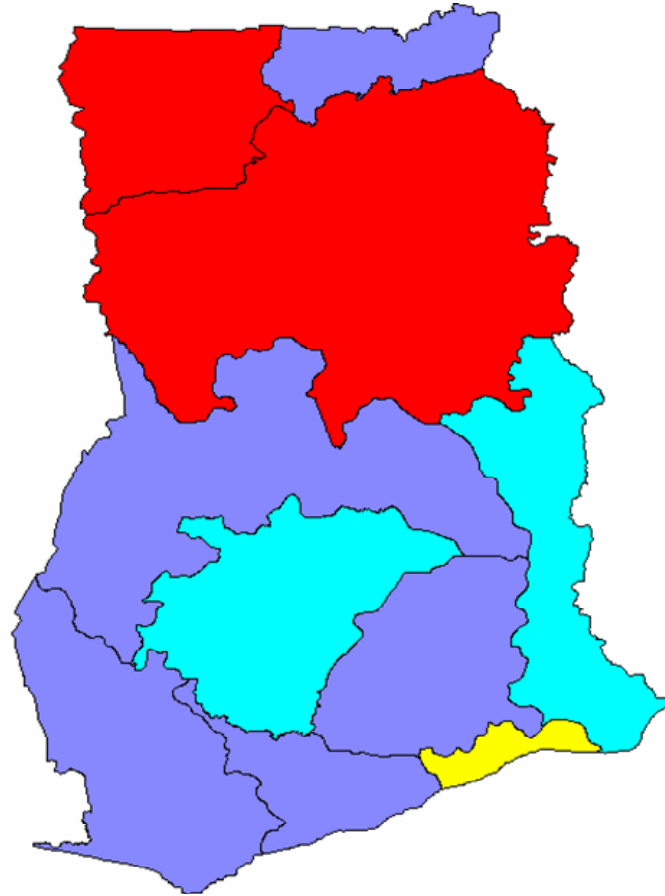
Trachoma

- Endemic in 2 regions in the country
- Endemic in 26 districts putting 2.7 million people at risk of disease
- Target for 2006 was 1.2 million
- Targets to provide 1500 people with surgery annually
- Program has recently downscaled to 7 districts

Endemic Map of the NTDs

Legend

	Trachoma, LF, Oncho, Schisto, STH
	LF, Oncho, Schisto, STH
	Oncho, Schisto, STH
	LF, Schisto, STH



Integration

- Specific disease endemic areas have significant geographical overlap
- All the control programs employ similar strategies especially with regard to mass drug treatment
- Funding for the control of specific diseases had dwindled over the years

Management Structure

- NTD Control Programme of the GHS/MOH is the owner of the programme
- Responsible for Policy directions as well as implementation of the programme at all levels by employing the existing structures available within the health system
- Programme works with a few GOG and key partners to provide both financial and technical support
- NTD Control Programme works with all partners to ensure the timely implementation of all planned programme activities

Programme Vision

- A Nation (Ghana)
Free of Neglected
Tropical Diseases

Programme Goals

To reduce the prevalence of Neglected Tropical Diseases (blinding Trachoma, Lymphatic Filariasis, Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil-transmitted Helminths) to levels that are no longer of public health significance from Ghana by 2015.

Specific Objectives

- To reduce the prevalence of active trachoma to less than 5% among children aged 1-9 years and the prevalence of trichomatous trichiasis to less than 1 case per 1000 population above 15 years
- To reduce the antigen prevalence of LF to less than 1% among endemic populations and 0% among children less than 5 years and manage 100% of lymphodema cases registered
- Lymphatic Filariasis- To reduce the antigen prevalence of LF to less than 1% among endemic populations and 0% among children aged below 5 years, and reduce hydrocoele cases registered by 60% as well as manage 100% of lymphoedema cases registered.

Specific Objectives

- Onchocerciasis –Reduce the community microfilarial load (CMFL) to below 0.5 per skin snip, reduce the fly infectivity rate to less than 0.5 per 1000 flies, and maintain a drug distribution coverage of at least 65% for all meso and 85% for hyper-endemic Onchocerciasis communities.
- Schistosomiasis –Target and treat 80% of all school aged children in high risk areas.
- Soil-transmitted Helminths –Target and treat 80% of all school aged children with anti-helminthic drugs.

Achievements

Achievements for NTD control made in year 1 to show the governments commitment to NTD Control

- Stakeholders meeting was chaired by the DG-GHS
- Key note address expressed Government's commitment to the integration of the programs of the neglected tropical diseases.
- Program has been piloted in 5 regions

Schedule for PCT

Target Diseases	MDA						
	1st Round				2nd Round		
	May-June				September-October		
	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 1	Wk 2	Week 3
Trachoma	Zithromax						
LF/Oncho/STH 1				Ivermectin/ Albendazole			
Schisto/STH 2					Mebendazole/ Praziquantel		

Estimated Drug Requirements

Drug	Target Pop	No. of tabs/dose	Total required	Source of drug
Ivermectin	10,015,000	25M		Merck & Co.
Azithromycin	1,045,472	3,073,686		Pfizer
Tetracycline	20,910	20,910 tubes		GOG
Albendazole	10,015,000	8M		GSK
Praziquantel	6,000,000	14M		USAID
Mebendazole	2,264,062	2,264,062		UNICEF

Estimated Numbers and Categories of People to be Trained Annually

Training Group	No. to be Trained	No. Training Days
Trainers and Supervisors	230	2
Health Workers and Teachers	1080	2
Distributors	20,160	1

Achievements so far

- 122,439 more people were treated in the USAID supported regions than in previous year
- Field work for Schisto mapping has been completed to enable PZQ treatment
- Some preliminary data analysis has been done to enable projections for PZQ treatment this year
- Consignment of 9M PZQ tablets have been received

- 7,223,913 people for LF and Oncho co endemic districts
- 629,505 people in Oncho only endemic districts
- 2,264,00 children between 5 years-15 years with STH
- 50 % of children between 5 years-15 years (1,132,031) with SCH
- 188,595 people with Trachoma in 7 endemic districts.

Additionality

- In 2007, the NTD programme treated people in the 5 selected regions with Ivermectin, Albendazole, Mebendazole and Azithromycin/Tetracycline for LF, Onchocerciasis, STH and Trachoma.
- In 2008, Praziquantel will be added to the previous treatments for SCH still in the 5 regions

Challenges

- Delays in starting this years' MDAs due to administrative bottlenecks in selection of new sub-grantee and the signing of an MOU/contract
- Availability of funds has distorted program's treatment schedule
- Timing of PZQ treatment with national school de-worming
- Funding gap within 5 USAID supported regions
- Inadequate funds for other 5 regions

Challenges

- To review and develop integrated IEC materials
- About 18 million targeted for year 2008 under the 2-year plan could not be treated under the USAID Support.
- USAID funds are earmarked for MDA in selected areas and is yet to commit funds to monitoring of disease transmission
- Programme could not cover all 10 regions in Ghana

Challenges

- Refining treatment strategies with other NTDs in the context of the NTDCP
- Ensuring treatment of out-of-school children (often a source of re-infection) for STH and SCH
- Different reporting requirements by international partners
- Inconsistencies with technical issues from our international partners

Way-Forward

- Comprehensive 5-Year POA for all NTDs
- Morbidity management to take advantage of national health insurance
- Strengthen collaboration with stakeholders and partners and the NTDCP
- Need to spell out clear roles for all partners
- Encourage partners to design a single reporting form which will be acceptable to all
- Common platform for engaging partners

Thank you!

